

Introduced by Senator Wyland

March 14, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25—Relative to the 35th anniversary of Proposition 13.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 25, as introduced, Wyland. The 35th anniversary of the enactment of Proposition 13.

This measure would commemorate June 6, 2013, as the 35th anniversary of the approval of Proposition 13 by California voters.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On June 6, 1978, Proposition 13, officially titled
2 the "People's Initiative to Limit Property Taxation," and popularly
3 known as the "Jarvis-Gann Initiative," was overwhelmingly
4 approved by California's voters, reducing property tax rates on
5 homes, businesses, and farms, and capping the rate of increase in
6 the future; and

7 WHEREAS, Prior to the adoption of Proposition 13, California's
8 raging inflation had sent property tax bills in California soaring
9 so high that many families had to sell their homes because they
10 could not afford to pay their taxes; and

11 WHEREAS, Prior to the adoption of Proposition 13, property
12 tax assessments showed wider divergences than assessment
13 disparities under the current acquisition-value system; and

14 WHEREAS, With the approval of Proposition 13, real property
15 values were adjusted to a base value equal to the 1976 assessed
16 value of that real property, thereby introducing an objective
17 standard upon which real property would be taxed and ending the

1 previous subjective standard for assessment that engendered the
2 property tax assessment abuses that occurred in the 1960s and
3 1970s; and

4 WHEREAS, With the passage of Proposition 13, taxpayers, for
5 the first time, were provided a measure of certainty with respect
6 to their property taxes; and

7 WHEREAS, In the 35 years following the passage of Proposition
8 13, the average homeowner has saved tens of thousands of dollars
9 in property tax payments, money that, was able to be spent in the
10 economy to create jobs and foster economic development; and

11 WHEREAS, Since the passage of Proposition 13, proposed
12 alternatives to Proposition 13 would have had a variety of
13 unwelcome effects, including substantial tax increases for
14 low-income and elderly homeowners; and

15 WHEREAS, Since the passage of Proposition 13, voters' 2-to-1
16 rejection in 1992 of Proposition 167 suggests that the split roll
17 alternative to the current system, in which business would pay
18 property taxes at a rate higher than that imposed on residential
19 properties, finds little favor with voters; and

20 WHEREAS, Proposition 13 has become a nationwide symbol
21 for taxpayer revolt and for citizens exercising control and power
22 over their governance; and

23 WHEREAS, Thursday, June 6, 2013, marks the 35th year
24 following the voters' approval of Proposition 13; now, therefore,
25 be it

26 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in recognition of the
28 impact Proposition 13 has had on the State of California, formally
29 commemorates June 6, 2013, as the 35th anniversary date of
30 Proposition 13; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Legislature reaffirm its support for
32 Proposition 13 and the benefit that it provides to individual
33 homeowners and to the state's overall economy; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
35 this resolution to the Governor of the State of California, and to
36 the author for appropriate distribution.